THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (d) There is one pig iron plant each in the States of Orissa and Jharkhand, which has been commissioned. In additional to this, one integrated steel plan of Steel Authority of India Ltd. in Jharkhand State also produces pig iron.

In terms of Industrial Policy in vogue no prior permission of the Govt. is required to set up pig iron plants in the country barring certain locational restrictions. Entrepreneurs are, therefore, free to select the location on their commercial judgement.

Estimated credit requirement of steel sector

4065. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have estimated the total credit requirement of steel sector;

(b) to what extent the financial institutions are catering to the total requirement; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by Government to set up institutional finance for steel sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) According to the New Industrial Policy announced in July 1991, iron and steel industry has been de-reserved and de-licensed barring certain locational restrictions. It is up to entrepreneurs to set up such limits based on their commercial judgement. Ministry of Steel has not estimated the total credit requirement of steel sector.

(b) As per the information made available by IDBI, FIs had sanctioned financial assistance in the post liberalization era to 14 large projects in steel (pig iron, steel and steel processing) involving a total investment of Rs. 35,550 crores.

(c) There is no proposal in the Ministry to set up institution for financing steel sector.